

Group I. First Embodiment: screening oligo nucleic acids by a hybridization-based method (claims 1 to 10 and 12);

Group II. Second Embodiment: screening oligo nucleic acids by a computer-based method (claims 1 to 11).

The Office Action stated that claims 1 to 10 are generic.

Applicants elect Group II, namely the Second Embodiment of screening oligo nucleic acids by a computer-based method (claims 1 to 11).

Applicants were also required to elect one of the following species of claims 6 and 7 for the reasons set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action:

- I. n is 2; claim 6
- II. n is 3; claim 6
- III. n is 4; claim 6
- IV. n is 5; claim 7
- V. n is 6; claim 7
- VI. n is 7; claim 7
- VII. n is more than 7; claim 6

Applicants elect VI, i.e., n is 7 (claim 7).

The Restriction Requirement is respectfully traversed on the ground that it is not a species requirement of the type set forth in the third paragraph of MPEP 803.02 entitled "PRACTICE RE MARKUSH TYPE CLAIMS". It is respectfully submitted that the practice set forth therein and in the decisions cited in MPEP 803.02 are the

proper practice to be applied in the present case and to the extent that the Restriction Requirement is not consistent therewith, it is respectfully traversed.

If, however, the Restriction Requirement is maintained, then taking into consideration that there are generic claims, it is respectfully requested that the provisions of 37 CFR 1.141(a) and the procedure set forth in MPEP 806.04(d) be followed, which provide that once a claim that is determined to be generic is allowed, all of the claims drawn to species, in addition to the elected species, which include all of the limitations of the generic claim, should be allowed.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: PETITION FOR EXTENSION